

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 /078 W

----- 089765

R 170700Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5531

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, RP

SUBJECT: LABOR SECRETARY OPLE'S COMMENTS TO PRESS UPON  
RETURN

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 16,  
RETURNING LABOR SECRETARY OPLE DECLARED ILO ENTERING  
PERIOD CRISIS DUE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND  
DEVELOPING NATIONS. EXPRESSED HOPE AMERICANS WOULD NOT  
WITHDRAW FROM ILO OR SUSPEND PAYMENT DUES, BUT NOTED  
U.S. EXAMINING ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP WITH SPECIALIZED  
AGENCIES AND UN. DURING U.S. VISIT, MAIN EMPHASIS HAD  
BEEN ON PROMOTION GOP CAMPAIGN FOR MORE DOLLAR REMITTANCES  
FROM OVERSEAS WORKERS. LABOR SECRETARY BEING WELCOMED  
HOME AS KIND OF CONQUERING HERO, AND IT APPARENT HIS  
ELECTION IN GENEVA HAS CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED HIS NATIONAL  
AS WELL AS HIS INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE. END SUMMARY.

1. RETURNING LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE WAS GREETED AT  
AIRPORT JULY 16 BY OVER 100 WELL-WISHERS REPRESENTING  
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TOP ECHELONS TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, EMPLOYERS ORGANIZATIONS,

AND DOL. DURING COURSE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, HE BRIEFLY REVIEWED SOME ACTIVITIES OF 60TH ILO CONFERENCE OVER WHICH HE HAD PRESIDED, AND REPORTED ON HIS VISIT TO U.S. HIGHLIGHTS HIS STATEMENTS FOLLOW.

2. ILO HAS ENTERED PERIOD OF CRISIS DUE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. AS RESULT SEATING PLO AS OBSERVER, SOME SECTORS IN U.S. URGING WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO OR SUSPENSION DUES PAYMENTS WHICH COMPRISE ABOUT 25 PER CENT ILO BUDGET. OPLE SAID HE HAD TOLD NUMBER OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN U.S. HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT COME TO THAT. AMERICANS, HE CONTINUED, RECOGNIZE USEFULNESS ILO IN PROMOTING WORLD PEACE BASED ON SOCIAL JUSTICE. IT BEHOVED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THEIR SIDE TO REALIZE THEY ARE MAIN BENEFICIARIES ILO ACTIVITIES AS MOST OF ITS SERVICES CONSIST OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FIELD OF LABOR AND SOCIAL POLICIES.

3. RETURNING TO CONFRONTATION THEME, OPLE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT UNFORTUNATELY, BURDEN OF UNDERSTANDING MUST REST LARGELY WITH U.S. WITH ALL ITS WORLDWIDE PREOCCUPATIONS. HE DISSENTED STRONGLY FROM "POLICY OF CONFRONTATION" URGED BY NEWLY APPOINTED UN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, URGING RECONCILIATION OF INTERESTS INSTEAD. OPLE NOTED U.S. NOT JUST EXAMINING ITS RELATIONS WITH ILO AND OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, BUT ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP WITH UN ITSELF. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO SECRETARY'S FORCEFUL STATEMENT IN MILWAUKEE, SPECIFICALLY KISSINGER WARNING THIRD WORLD MANIPULATORS IN UN MAY WELL INHERIT AN EMPTY SHELL.

4. LABOR SECRETARY REPORTED HE HAD MET WITH FILIPINO OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND CALIFORNIA, TO PROMOTE GOP CAMPAIGN FOR MORE DOLLAR REMITTANCES BY FILIPINO OVERSEAS WORKERS. HE EXPECTED GOVERNMENT IN 1975 EARN MORE THAN \$100 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM SUCH OVERSEAS REMITTANCES, WHICH WOULD BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO NATION'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. FINALLY, OPLE ASSERTED HIS ELECTION TO ILO CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY WAS INDICATION PRESTIGE AND RESPECT EARNED BY NEW SOCIETY AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL AS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT MARCOS.

5. COMMENT: LABOR SECRETARY BEING WELCOMED HOME AS KIND OF CONQUERING HERO. CLIMAX TO BE "TRIPARTITE" TESTIMONIAL DINNER JULY 26 JOINTLY SPONSORED BY LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND DOL. QUITE APPARENT OPLE'S ELECTION IN GENEVA HAS CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED HIS NATIONAL AS WELL AS

HIS INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, AND SHOULD SERVE STRENGTHEN  
HIS POSITION IN CABINET. EMBASSY LEARNED FROM  
LABOR MEMBERS PHILIPPINE ILO DELEGATION THAT MARCOS  
MARCHING ORDERS HAD INCLUDED STRONG PITCH TO ATTEMPT  
ACCOMMODATE DESIRES ARAB STATES AT GENEVA. IN THAT SENSE,  
OPLE CLEARLY BROUGHT HOME THE BACON, ESPECIALLY AS CON-  
CERNS HALDLING OF PLO ISSUE. OPLE TOOK TIME DURING HECTIC  
AIRPORT WELCOME TO TELL LABATT HE REGRETTED STOP  
IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN SO BRIEF HE HAD NOT BEEN  
ABLE MEET WITH SECRETARY DUNLOP. SULLIVAN

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